

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending January 11, 2019

Remove Garage Door Openers from Your Cars

Thieves used garage door openers to enter garages in 2 recent events

On Sunday morning (January 6), Montgomery County officers responded to a call just north of the Village in Martin's Additions. The victim reported that he found his car rummaged through and his overhead garage door was wide open. The victim had left his car parked in the driveway. Apparently, a thief entered the victim's car, rooted around, and then used the victim's garage door opener to access the interior of the garage. A total of 4 residents in the area (Martin's Additions, Section 3) also reported that their vehicles had been entered; thieves smashed windows to steal visible items inside two of the cars. All told, several items were stolen including 3 bicycles. Security video from a resident in Section 3 showed two thieves entering the victim's car at about 3:30 a.m. Click on the below link to see the video.

Link: <https://ring.com/share/6643299634992445270>

Shortly after 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, a resident in the 5500 block of Grove Street heard his garage door opening. When he looked out the window, he saw two men entering his garage and then fleeing toward Cedar Parkway—one riding the resident's stolen bicycle, and the other on foot. The resident called the Village Communications Center, and Officers Ryan Patterson and Willie Hearn responded immediately and arrived in two minutes. The officers searched the area for the suspects without success.

Investigation revealed that the thieves entered one of the resident's vehicles which was parked outside, found a garage door opener within the car, and used it to raise the garage door and enter the garage. Officers Patterson and Hearn found that three additional vehicles on that same block had been entered and rummaged through.

Village police are in regular contact with Montgomery County and DC Police; those agencies report that they are dealing with a high number of thefts from auto.

The Village Police Department strongly recommends that residents remove their garage door remote control openers from their cars overnight to prevent thieves from using the openers to enter their garage. Thankfully, the thieves have not yet entered the interior of the homes after entering the garages, but this is a possibility. **Please bring your garage door openers inside your home, and lock the door from the garage into your home.**

Continued on the next page

Worker's Stolen Car Recovered in Prince George's County

Owner had left the key inside his unlocked car

On Thursday, January 03, 2019 at about 3:30 p.m., a contractor who was working at a home in the 100 block of E. Lenox Street called police to report that his car was stolen within the past hour. The man said that he had left the key inside his red 2008 Cadillac CTS, and when he returned to the driveway, he discovered that his car was gone.

Village officers placed the stolen vehicle information in the national crime database, and gave the information directly to the county police and DC police.

The car was located in Prince George's County. After determining that the car had apparently been abandoned by unknown thieves, Montgomery County detectives impounded the car and will be processing it for evidence.

The investigation is continuing.